AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Title of the invention with the following rewritten Title:

"METHOD OF MANAGING ACCESS TO A COLLECTIVE RESOURCE"

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

"The two access schemes described hereinbefore are mentioned in the international Patent Application published under the number WO95/31874. The aforementioned Application relates to an MPEG decoder."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 25 with the following rewritten paragraph:

"A lock-up as described hereinbefore can be avoided by taking care that the access operations by the functions of the highest priorities have comparatively great lengths. Thus, after having accessed the collective resource such a function will only need a new access after a comparatively long period. In a way, the long access ensures that the function is taken care of in such way that it remains silent for a comparatively long period. As a result, the frequency of the requests by the functions of the highest priorities will be comparatively low. This provides room to allow the functions of lower priorities to access the collective resource."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

"According to one embodiment of the invention, a data processing system comprises an interface adapted to implement an access scheme characterized by a plurality of states passed through in a predetermined manner, a state forming a possibility of access of a given length and defining an order of priority in accordance with which a function can access the collective resource."

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 27 with the following rewritten paragraph:

"Figure 10 illustrates basic characteristic features of the invention. Referring to FIG. 10, a functional system comprises a set of functions F which should access a collective resource RSRC. The system comprises an interface INT adapted to implement an access scheme AS characterized by a plurality of states S which are passed through in a predetermined manner, a state S forming a possibility of access of a given length and defining an order of priority in accordance with which a function F can access the collective resource RSRC."

Please replace the Abstract of the invention with the following rewritten Abstract:

"A functional system comprises a set of functions (F) requiring access to a collective resource (RSRC). Such a system can be, for example, a data processing system comprising a plurality of processors requiring access to a collective memory. For reasons of cost it is desirable to guarantee a certain minimum access for one or more functions while a certain degree of flexibility as regards the access is maintained. For this purpose, the system comprises an interface (INT) adapted to implement an access scheme (AS) characterized by a plurality of states (S) passed through in a predetermined manner. A state (S) forms a possibility of access of a given length and defines an order of priority in accordance with which a function (F) can access the collective resource (RSRC)."